Dear Howard, 2/16/78

Yesterday I had my annual checkup, due in September and never arranged by Group Health until for January, when that doctor was taken ill. I was two hours early, almost, because the bus gave no choice, so I stopped off to meet Steve Bell of ABC News, the reporter on the Good Morning America Show. ABC's Washington office is on the walk from where Igot off the bus to the GHA building.

It was the warmest greeting I can remember from a stranger. I think this comes mainly from three things: my response to his question when I was on the show, how do I live when I've done all this work without regular income;professional respect and curiosity; and from being thoroughly turned off by the Lanes, Gregorys and AlBers.

The show was still on the air when I got there. They ushered me into the control room adjoining that studio, then he came out and asked if I had enough time to have a cup of coffee or breakfats with him and would I wait until he auditioned the tape he'd made for the news segement of the second hour of the show as it was aired in the next time zone.

He then took me to the Mayflower, which is directly accross the street, and we sat and talked until I had to leave to see the doctor.

He was very plessant and we talked of many things, to a degree as you might talk case law with fellow barristers. I think that outside this subject I was of some help to him on sources for stories now in the news, where my previous experiences are relevant to today's major events.

I'll not be surprised if he and his wife some up after the weather improves.

I also think he is not happy about the National Enquirer (my description to him) mind set of those on the New York end of the show who select the guests and their subjects.

Despite the fact that I was carrying a heavy load of papers for Jim my blood pressure and other such checks were good after I'd carried them another 10-15 minutes. I had my large attache case full and a large tote bag I'd gotten not to have to lug a box by hand also full. (Jim liked the tote bag so he has it and I bought another at the local place on the way home from the bus station.)

As best I can tell the checkup was okay. This new doctor, new also on the staff, I'm sure, from her appearance, a youngish woman, was at least informative. My condition appears to be stable. She found no pulse in my feet, if I am to take her literally, which accounts for why they get so cold so fast and stay so cold. The pulse in the femorals is sluggish, elsewhere fine. Blood pressure not bad for 65 in a month and a half, 130 over 80 in the right arm, 125 over 80 in the left. There is atherscleroeis and what I had not been told, the previous EKG showed it. zSo she ordered another one yesterday. She is surprised that I can walk as much as I have, do as much as I have, without bad leg pain, so I suppose I may in time look forward to that.

I now also have a small cataract on the left eye, nothing to worry about. I'm postponing the trip to the opthalmalogist until after the birthday to see if Medicare covers it. I'm not going back to GHA for that after all the trouble I had there several years ago, all wrong refractions and prescriptions.

I'm in the ill-wind department.It has done some good, this business of the ill winds that have kept us under ice and snow. I've had to shovel snow and cop ice. Lil was scared but I paced myself. I did overdoe it just a little the first couple of time but soon got to know what I could do without feeling it too much. (This is the arterial part, not enough oxygen if I do too much.)We had ice inches thick from a very warm day after a heavy snow. It was all around the house and down the lane to the road-long as a football field. Graducally I got all around the house cleared and all down to the lane to where I was past the flat part, past the turnaround and with a water down on the slope. The snow that have repeatedly covered the cleared part, what I had not shovelled off, has melted and if we do not have the predicted snow today I'll work it farthur toward the road, thicker ice. I've kind of enjoyed it and it was good for the arms and I now am certain the circulation. I find that coinciding with this for me real exertion with the arms, used so little for a year, coincides with the end of dissiness when I first recline or get up and the disappearance of the audibility of the beat of the heart in the right ear.

I became aware of this several days ago and was encouraged by it. In fact, it has led me to plan ahead for the summer. This past summer I was not able to mow the grass. I think I'll see my new hand mower and get one with the self-propelled feature so that for some of the hand mowing I'll not have to exert too much. It will give me the option of having to do the hard work or not doing it, I think. Hope.

So there are some medical problems, no new ones, no remedial ones and no sweat about any of them. Except for what I've said above nothing new.

Jim and I had a little chance to talk. Not much because by the time I was finished getting the chest X-rays and the lab work it was after noon and I have to be at the bus station by 1:30 to be sure of a suitable seat.

He is almost planning for your being able to join him and he is right, if it can become possible. He is getting to the point where he'll have some income and where his practise can expand. He will be getting nice fees from the government for the cases he is handling for me. And years of effort, of being myself, are paying off. The Steve Bell reaction is but one.

Earl Golz called me for help the other day, for all his close friendships with the Dallas people. During the course of a long conversation he told me he had spoken to Henry Wade a few days earlier and Henry had spoken highly of me.

Read the language of the Green decision closely when you get it, and when we have the entire transcript, more than the opinion part of what Bell said.

We have turned the corner of respectability and responsibility.

And we have the most unregenerate opposition, one that guarantees me sure-win suits, which means sure fees for lawyers.

Ask yourself how I can lose the suit for the FBI's releases worksheets. Or the one Jim will file after he comes back for a trip, for all those CIA requests not responded to going back to 1971.

Reminds me, Steve Bell is a friend of Frank Snepp's. There were inVietnam together, although they never met then. He is going to tell Snepp that I think I can help him in the prosection Griffin Bell has promised. And I'm sure I can, and can get other help.

There is no doubt of victory in the King case and a great expenditure of Jim's time. He should get well into five figures on that one. The same should be true of spectro/NAA, where we did get many records if we are still without compliance. He may have to go past Pratt, to appeals on it but he should win a nice fee. And I think we can turn the transcripts suit around.

The prospects are, I think, very good. The question is how to make it possible. One way, perhaps, is to use the nice fee I will be getting from Justice. Think of it. Jim has a friend who has a cooperative apartment and decided to buy an old home closer to Howard University, where he is head of the math department. The monthly charges are only $60. I don t know what the cost is, but Jim thinks he might rent it for a while. Walking distance from Jim's office. Which is soon moving accross the hall into a slightly larger room.

Gradually I'm eliminating the accumulation of undone work on my desk so I can return to my Justice consultancy. It has meant making other stacks but they are at least a little more orderly. First I have a stack of the new releases to read and select for Jim because I believe there is in them some of what DJ withheld in the spectro case. He is about to get on that appeal brief. I dongt think he'll need much to prove other than good faith and due diligence. Here there is value in the Gemberling report because it is from a HQ file and was not provided under discovery and says the opposite of what Shaneyfelt reported and said on deposition. When we had this material point to resolbe Pratt cut us off on the taking of testimony, making up his own phoney solutions. I think there is the possibility, with the Hoover ridicuing of the single-bullet theory, if I can find that, of getting through on fact alone to the appeals court.

I also have a new press contact in New Orleans, one who was born there, had his newspapering career elsewhere and is now back there. He phoned me at Mo Baldron's suggestion. He knows nothing at all about the case. His own people did not even tell him about the sources and resources they already had. I did that.

Other work calls. Best,